The Amazon Review

THE AMAZON REVIEW

Mister Quickly

Coleridge Iglesias

Quickly Books

Victoria, BC

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to Dr. Oliver Shale Condor and Leonard Gottfried.

What the Critics Are Saying

"Ha ha ha ha ha, wow, this is really not a review at all, more of a puff piece for yourself"

– *Laurie R. Wicker*

"This is just garbledygook. Are you just a poor speller or are you suggesting that Bing sing with a vegetable in his mouth?"

– A.J. Smith

"Huh?"

– *LV*

"A quick perusal of this reviewer's other reviews reveals a simple, closed mind; so rehashed fantasy passes for ultimate creativity."

– *Seth A. Close*

"I'm very glad that you liked the album, but your review sounds like you were in dreamland when you were writing it. I didn't really hear you say much about the album at all."

– *HagFan*

"???"

– *MCL*

"You should check out a field guide that contains moth

caterpillars, perhaps you may then locate your specimen. It has been my experience that moth caterpillars by far out number those of butterflies."

– Greg Ross

"What we have here is a supply and demand issue. Clearly this book demands more of the reader's intellect than this reviewer can supply."

– Mark

"Are you completely insane? This is the most horrendous review I have ever seen on Amazon.com."

– *Eric Booth*

Introduction

I remember the first day I met Mister Quickly. I had just completed a reading from my then debut novel, Tampico Cocoa, in a Starbuck's located in the front entrance of Save-on-Foods located in Tillicum Mall. I was dressed in a resplendent black outfit that gave me an air of smoky mystery even underneath those skin-rashing fluorescent lights. I must have impressed Mister Quickly because we chatted afterwards and he told me in confidence that he was an Amazon reviewer. I was amazed that someone would identify as such in public, but I soon came to appreciate the art and mastery behind his reviewing process, and his philosophy of art and life summed up neatly as — well, I can't remember how he worded it, but it involved a fascinating discussion of pilasters and Star Trek Voyager. I had never before met someone who dressed like a waiter for casual wear, but with an elegant brocade robe overtop. He was all class.

He soon took me on as a protege, and I helped in writing several of these reviews, as did some of his other proteges. At that time, Mister Quickly operated a writing studio in the great Italian tradition, employing skilled craftspeople in the production of written works. We wrote so many great works: *The United Chair*; *Fragments of an Elderberry*

Crown; I – Lake; The Mister Quickly Countryhouse Mysteries; The Bodystocking Codicil; A Comparative Analysis of Two Alternatives to Chemical Aircraft Paint Stripping, part 2: A Comparative Analysis of Seventy-three Alternatives to Chemical Aircraft Paint Stripping With Spies and Guns; and The Nonpareil Docks Paradox, and so many classic others.

Myself and the other proteges would arrive each morning for work in the lobby of the Princess Hotel until we were kicked out on the third day, as apparently Mister Quickly had not reserved the space, which I'm sure was some small oversight on his part given how many industries he had been applying himself to, and the sheer number of administrative tediums that competed for his admittedly prodigious attention. Could you balance as much when if you were working on a novel, designing toilet paper embossment patterns, creating singular cologne blends, writing the definitive book on Persian and Turkish rug selection, etc etc etc. It would amaze me the number of things he could apply himself to without succumbing to idiotic dilettantism.

We then took to meeting in a small conference room in the public library downtown, until again we were kicked out given some mix-up over reservations. And so on and so forth. Let this not distract from the fact that despite being shuffled around various free spaces around the city we were able to churn out a remarkable body of work for Mister Quickly, in the form of novels, novellas, short stories, poems, plays and teleplays, many of which were awaiting publication before tragedy struck.

It was a flowering that was not meant to last, as all great

artistic scenes must someday dissipate, culminating in the early retirement and seclusion of Mister Quickly.

Does this challenge the stylistic consistency of these reviews or disrupt the authorial intent? I'll let you be the judge.

I will let Mister Quickly elaborate on the tragedy that precipitated his retirement when it suits his purposes, though I'm not actually sure what he is up to anymore but I wish him well. I understand it involved the Pegasus Room and the legacy of Dr. Oliver Shale Condor. Until he re-emerges I present to you what I believe is the definitive statement on Amazon reviewery: The Amazon Review by Mister Quickly. I believe that Mister Quickly will become for Amazon reviewistry what John Ruskin was for Gothic architecture. Surely. And if not, then it would be because we're all dead, probably. I hope it doesn't come to that, but humanity is a curse; a depraved swarm upon the planet.

– Coleridge Iglesias, February 2018

BEAUTY & PERSONAL CARE

L'Occitane - L'Oranger - Spicy Orange Solid Perfume Cubes

2.0 out of 5 stars

Stolid Perfume Cubes, September 30, 2006

I have tallied a list of substances that one can easily apply to their body. Liquid is one of these substances. Cream is another. Paste too fits this category, although I haven't had to apply paste to my body for at least 3 years. No matter how much labour I've exerted, cubes are not as easily applied as are other arrangements of substance. I spent most of July trying to apply a perfume cube, tucking it away into my hair, fastening it to my neck with elastic,

trying to maintain it in my armpit without dropping it as I moved and lifted crates of asbestos onto a catapault, but none of these methods achieve the ease of liquid; a liquid that cacades onto the body like the flight of a dove, yet one without bones or any membrane, so its particles move freely over one another. Liquid.

This is why this product receives only 2 stars. How can I apply this solid perfume cube?

Lovely by Sarah Jessica Parker for Women 3.4 oz Eau de Parfum Spray

5.0 out of 5 stars

Lovely by Sarah Jessica Parker for Women *or* Men, December 12, 2006

The dividing line between men's and women's fragrances has always been a very porous one. Fragrances can cross that border with the ease of a Swede into Germany after the Schengen Agreement. Why would I include such a statement before reviewing this product? It's because I've been wearing 'Lovely' by Sarah Jessica Parker all week. I was on public transport Saturday when someone came up,

wafted their hand and said “crisp apple martini flirting with silky white amber. There is also an interloping patchouli.” I nodded my head as I realised this person’s sentence evoked perhaps the most gender neutral connotations, validating my choice in scent.

Therefore, I recommend this fragrance for men as well.

CLOTHING, SHOES AND JEWELRY

Snowflake Diamond Pendant 0.29 cwt

5.0 out of 5 stars

This looks good with a white suit, December 12, 2006

My friend Barbara Boudewijn works for the EU somewhere in Brussels. No one in our circle is quite clear what it is she does for them. We've taken to calling her "Snowflake" because of what she keeps in a large aquarium in her livingroom: bamboo shrimp. They moult regularly, and often their skin can be seen peeling away and floating in the water like snowflakes. Barbara is fascinated by the process, and she sits on an ergonomic chair and watches them flake away for hours. I got her this tasteful snowflake diamond pendant in white gold. She

took offense because she's sensitive about a skin condition that causes much of her forehead and temples to flake away like pastry crust. When I said "here you are, Snowflake" she took it as a reference to her skin condition rather than her bamboo shrimp. I corrected her, saying it is her bamboo shrimp that flake away like snowflakes, while her skin condition flakes away like pastry. I said if I had been referring to the latter I would have gotten pastries and said "here you go, Pastry." She would not accept my clarification. Naturally I was offended and said to her she cannot have this pendant, so I've taken to wearing it. It's quite tasteful.

Disney Tinkerbell Watch

5.0 out of 5 stars

great watch, December 12, 2004

I'm suprised at how durable this watch is. Looking at it you'd think "this watch has Tinkerbell on it, it can't take punishment." Well, you'd be wrong to think that.

I fell 5 stories onto a flagpole which bent towards the ground and launched me another 20 feet into the air, and flew straight into the building across the street. The intense velocity caused my skin to form a suction with its surface. The watch violently clashed with both the flagpole and the building across the street, and yet it didn't break. As I adhered to the window, peeling my arm from the glass, I glanced at my watch: 8:31am. Perfect time.

Open Bust and Open Crotch Fishnet Bodystocking

4.0 out of 5 stars

sexy stocking, November 28, 2004

This bodystocking has really become prominent in my day-to-day activities. Whether I'm wearing it at school, or at the home, it's become a staple. Plus, the product name doesn't mince words here – this is one sexy bodystocking.

Sterling Silver X Ring

5.0 out of 5 stars

this is quite a ring, November 27, 2004

Now this is a ring. The X design on this ring makes it ideal for demarcating your property by dabbing it into an ink pad, and then giving whatever item belongs to you a swift tap. I try not to get any more aggressive than this, but I'm pretty sure you could indent the cross into any material object without using any ink if you punch hard enough. I do not recommend doing this though. This is a classy ring, and should be treated with more tenderness. It probably will last a lifetime.

CRAFTS, HOBBIES & HOME

Blue Book of Gun Values by S. P. Fjestad

3.0 out of 5 stars

Blue Book of Gun Prices, November 30, 2004

I got this book thinking it would offer me a warriors code of values I could follow... and then break because I'm a renegade – a real wild card. This book is actually just a bunch of gun prices. I don't know why I need a book of prices because if I want to buy a gun I'll just check the price before I buy it. I guess it makes comparative shopping easy, but all of these guns in this book are too expensive for me anyways.

Caring for Your Miniature Donkey (Second Edition) by Bonnie R. Gross

5.0 out of 5 stars

thought-provoking, pragmatic advice, November 27, 2004

This is an excellent book, and a most welcome read after the disastrous experiences I had with my first 3 miniature donkeys. Poor creatures. I'm only thankful that this wonderful edition has helped me prolong the life expectancy of my current miniature donkey, Gerhardt. Donkies are not something you can just buy to play with

and show off to your friends, and then leave unattended with a pet monkey for days on end.

One minor qualm I have is how Gross fails to mention the calamities involved in allowing a pet monkey to ride a miniature donkey. Be forewarned – this is not a good thing to do!

The Dining Room by Diane Berger

3.0 out of 5 stars

The Dining Room, November 18, 2005

I have a recurring dream. In it I am a brilliantly lit dining room and in the centre of me sits a magnificent oak table. She is splendidly burdened with a delicious assortment of treats. For a few tasteful moments the table and I are a scene of silent magnificence. A life-affirming aria starts playing, and I'm not sure who the composer is, but the music is a testament to our splendour. Very abruptly we are interupted by several husky Slovakian men. They begin gorging from the table, favouring especially the aspic (which I've always had trouble enjoying), smearing it all over their bearded faces. It is at this moment that I begin to turn up the lighting causing them to sweat and

itch, scratching themselves in a way that powders the floor with a heavy dander. Yet, they are still fixated enough with the task of eating that they do not stop consuming. I then turn up the thermostat several degrees beyond too high until the men start disrobing. At this point I wake up.

What is the dining room? What is the purpose of its leitmotif in the behavioural depths of our humanity? Why does it prowl unchecked in mist of our unguarded minds in this way? I expect some of these challenging questions answered in volume 2.

I Like You: Hospitality Under the Influence by Amy Sedaris

2.0 out of 5 stars

Hospitality without useful influence, December 15, 2006

The third Tuesday of the month I host a reading. I invite over collectors of nautical charts from between the years 1867-94 and we read aloud our charts, reciting coastal depths, inlet names, harbours, intersections of longitude and latitude, and so on, long fascinating lists read deep into the night. We are purveyors of our era and never venture outside its 1867-94 bracket, not ever. By 3am or thereabouts we begin smelling our maps, discussing what

materials the ink might be composed of, and even occasionally dotting our charts with our tongues to taste what complex flavour compounds have developed over the years.

Concerning hosting under the influence, during our second to last gathering I put out rye bread as an appetiser. We all were having a very good laugh as I read out the inaccurate fathoms from an 1869 chart of the waters off of "Russian America" (Alaska these days), but then my memory fails. Burping to the surface is a murky phantasmagoria of the police arriving, Jeremy Saltmaven defiling my valued 1883 chart of the Puget Sound, and Barbara Boudewijn vehemently discussing a nautical chart from the year 1901. It was horror. I couldn't remain a mannered host, especially after Gainsborough's Blue Boy entered the room and began cussing me out. Only later was it revealed that we had all been poisoned with ergot.

Prior I had read Amy Sedaris's book. At the moment when I needed advice on hospitality, her volume yielded no practical suggestions on how to i.) recognise ergot poisoning ii.)compose one's self with dignity under its spell.

Skip this one and for your next party instead read 'Ergot: The Genus Claviceps (Medicinal & Aromatic Plants, Industrial Profiles)' by Vladimir Kren and Ladislav Cvak. It came in handy during my reading group's next encounter with the colourful fungus. But rye bread is a luring courtesan like that.

Margaret's Table: Easy Cooking & Inspiring Entertaining by Margaret Dickenson

3.0 out of 5 stars

Entertaining like a Canadian Diplomat, November 15, 2006

Margaret Dickenson is the wife of a Canadian diplomat. I learned from her book the hierarchical placement of

guests around the dinner table that diplomats use. The most important sits to the right of the host, the second most important to the left. I have used this dinner table tactic to divide and conquer my guests, making them jealous of each other for my attention. I had Jeremy Saltmaven over for vermouth the other day and made him sit to my left, leaving a vacancy to the right. With this subtle trick I suspect I probably let Jeremy Saltmaven know he needs to give me more finery to secure my favour. Margaret Dickenson also explores dinner party themes, but this is where I went soft on the book. For my Hieronymus Bosch themed party, I assembled a nice costume from one of Bosch's panels. I heard the first knock at the door, and hurriedly threw on my bird mask, mounted a copper cauldron on my head, and leapt up onto my stilts. In the process of taking my first step I spilled headfirst into the front door, misjudging the weight imbalance of the cauldron on my neck. My guests later told me they first heard some shuffling, the single sonorous knell as of a large bell, and then nothing. After waiting patiently on the porch for 5 minutes, it took them a few moments longer than normal to open the front door, heaving it, unwittingly shifting my dumped motionless body across the vestibule floor.

So, Margaret Dickenson, that's why I can't give this book anything higher than 3 stars.

ELECTRONICS

Nikon Sky & Earth 15-45x60 Spotting Scope Outfit with Slik Tripod

4.0 out of 5 stars

here is what i think, December 12, 2005

A caveat for kindred esthetes: my excitement in owning a silk tripod overshot my reading comprehension. This is a "slik tripod." As a previous reviewer noted this is not made clear on the product description. I must admit I couldn't even begin to fathom what a silk tripod would be like, nor whether it would prove sturdy enough to support this product, but it certainly appealed to my finer sensibilities.

With that being said, this is a high definition telescope and allowed me to study the thighs of people walking. I am working on some engravings of thighs, so observing the flow and ripple of the unabashed thigh is truly a necessity for this project.

Panasonic SL-SX450 Portable CD / MP3 Player

2.0 out of 5 stars

dejection: a review, December 6, 2005

While I was initially attracted to this product for the sterling glamour of its silvery surface, this soon tarnished once I began operating its more than yielding button interface. Yes, it is very generous in how it allows you to press and poke it to command a number of operations; but it is almost too generous, and with each push of a button it sinks into disrepute, servility and debasement. I once esteemed its silvery resplendence. This product now impresses me as nothing more than painted chattel to be

abused by paupers and mendicants, to daub with their oily fingers.

I can have no more of this disreputable product.

Samsung HLT5087SAX 50" Slim LED Engine 1080p DLP HDTV

4.0 out of 5 stars

Slim LEDgend, January 22, 2008

I recently enjoyed viewing The Departed with this new Samsung HD television. On its merits as a series of very detailed images of famous actors' blackheads and facial hair follicles, the film succeeded miraculously. I owe thanks to the vivacious crispness of this magnificent onyx rectangular viewing mantle, a capable scrying medium as well when the lights are out.

4 stars. Thank you Samsung.

Sony D-EJ001 CD Walkman (Blue)

2.0 out of 5 stars

This product has design flaws, December 6, 2005

The display panel on this product is difficult enough to read as it is, but stationing this item at a distance any greater than 6 inches away from close scrutiny renders the screen completely unreaderly. Once while sitting in the tub I had to construct an elaborate placement of mirrors based upon the system of representation in Velasquez's Las Meninas just so I could view the display screen as I leisurely leaned back in the tub to skip tracks!

(In this instance skipping the Lyric Suite for string quartert by Alban Berg to a serene and more bath-worthy

recording of a didgeridoo, whale noises and soft synth pads.)

Thankfully I am a student of art history or else I may have distastefully invested in a small periscope, or an unfashionable pair of opera glasses just to view the screen from my vantage in the tub.

2 stars. Sony, you can do better.

EDUCATION & REFERENCE

Style: Ten Lessons in Clarity and Grace (7th Edition)

5.0 out of 5 stars Style: Yes, February 14, 2007

This collection of printed pages assembled with binding glue and intelligently ordered in numerical order according to linearity of the author's argument is a masterstroke and abetted my clarity most satisfactorily and advanced my compositional structures of writing passages with grace. Good writing is simply, and quite unerroneously, and most purely and undiluted and is – basically – getting down to it and putting your point out there as briskly as possible, like the crack of a wet towel on bare inner thigh.

Thanks Joseph M. Williams. Your penmanship is of such mastery that in my mind's eye I envision so starkly your calm venous hands.

In addition to this I recommend "The World of Music According to Starker." Page 69 could have been modeled upon Joseph M. Williams's collection of printed papers tastefully held between two ends, one on each side, so that anyone with the requisite dexterity may force them apart and ergonomically move their hand to turn the papers and see new words that explain the motion of the thoughts of the man who conceived of these words in this specific order.

FILM

Bunting Skills and Drills by Ernie Rosseau

2.0 out of 5 stars

living under the shadow, December 14, 2004

Interesting to see what the descendant of Jean-Jacques is up to. Well, it's a shame really.

Wilde (Special Edition) starring Stephen Fry

Wilde (Special Edition)

3.0 out of 5 stars

subject, December 11, 2004

They should have gotten Gene Wilder to play Oscar Wilde. It would have made this movie a lot Wilder.

FOOD

All Natural HOT Cinnamon Flavoured Toothpicks 4 Pack

3.0 out of 5 stars Cinnamonotonous Tootpicks, May 27, 2006

Toothpicks really make me sentimental. I remember well my first toothpick, "Gabriel." An admirable piece of wood, so graceful in the ways of dislodging food from between ones teeth, his dance like the effortless grace of a Darcey Bussell. Alas, I was but a child and misused Gabriel, splintering him on an unprincipled frog bone snagged between my first and second premolars. I will never forget Gabriel. On the someteenth anniversary of his removal of

a very recalcitrant pomegranate seed I decided to peruse Amazon for a replacement. I was suprised at the results.

This product advertises itself as "low-in-fat, high-in-taste." This is marvellous because I am on a diet. A good majority of us lack the digestive enzymes necessary to process wood. Although, my colleague Gareth Mitchell Headgraves is a rarity. I admit I become anxious when I leave himself alone in a room with a good piece of teak. In any case, despite a few misguided efforts, I cannot digest wood and will reaffirm that for most of us this product is low in fat.

After trying this product I became intruiged by a fellow reviewer's suggestion to try making your own home brew cinammon sticks. His have been brewing for 29 years. This engorged my curiousity. What flavours could I impregnate a toothpick with? Could I try a sweet Canary wine? Or a supple juniper extract? Perhaps a melegueta pepper?

3 stars because this product only opened up my curiousity for new toothpick flavours, and now find cinnamon to be lacking.

PS – fortunately for the parsimonious among us, Amazon has this item listed as used.

Gift Basket: Old Fashion Trio of New Englands Favorite Jams

1.0 out of 5 stars new englands favourite... jams!?!, December 6, 2004

I bought this expecting a compelling compilation of New England hip hop. As it turns out, New England is incapable of producing hip hop and the nearest cultural equivalent is jar upon jar of jam.

These also do not come in stereo, and in fact I broke my stereo trying to amplify them to give some life to a party I held in my livingroom. Such is the dismal and profoundly unurban state of my record collection, and representative of the desperation inspired by how much I was banking on

New Englands Favourite Jams to deliver some hip urban grooves.

Goya Codfish Batter Mix, Bacalaitos, 4.5-Ounce Packages (Pack of 24)

3.7 out of 5 stars

Goya's Dream

January 26, 2008

The sign of a quality product is whether or not its existence is presaged for you in a dream during childhood. I dreamed of this Goya codfish batter mix before I knew it was real. I was in an olive grove, Leo Sayer was playing,

and this Goya codfish batter mix, she came on the wind like dandelion fluffs. Startled, I awoke saying "Bacalaitos", as though it were the name of some Spanish magician who had suddenly removed a silk handkerchief from before my eyes. At last I could finally see.

With that being said, I prefer the Crab Place's more versatile Fish & Shrimp Batter sold here on Amazon, which also came to me in a dream.

4 stars.

Ox Bile Freeze-Dried 100C

5.0 out of 5 stars Ox Bile, Yes, June 10, 2006

I don't know if my liver's production of bile is less than optimal, but I don't want to take that chance. A bonus is that this is a taste very easy to acclimate one's self to. It took me only 7 weeks.

Tazo Green Ginger Tea, 24 Tea Bags

2.0 out of 5 stars should make bigger boxes, December 12, 2004

24 teabags isn't even enough for one pot. Perhaps my tastes run contrary to the mainstream, but I like my tea very strong.

HEALTH, FITNESS & DIETING

Burnt Toast: And Other Philosophies of Life by Teri Hatcher

5.0 out of 5 stars

Sister's Doing it For Themselves, July 3, 2006

While I'm not a single working mom, I actively enjoy the single working mom lifestyle. Reading this book I felt Teri to be a sister to me, and I a sister to her. Our childhood would have been one where I could look back fondly on the time we picked raspberries that one summer; the ambrosial jewels melting on our tongues as we bathed in the summer shade of a sycamore tree, the sun's light ebbing in the East, and our conversation becoming a series

of poems dedicated to life's loves and losses. Mother would have corn pone, okra, alligator medallions and a rich heady jumbalaya cooking in the kitchen. The smell would waft through the neighborhood like a spectral madame from the deep South calling out our names. "Teri and her sister Mister Quickly" she would say with her dulcet Southern drawl.

Now Teri and I have all grown up. I find it easy to relate to the anecdotes about her being a busy mom, and also being single, because Lord help me – I know what that's like! While I don't have children in the traditional sense, I do have an active imagination and spend a lot a lot of time trying on women's perfume and scrubbing the tub with Comet, something I'm sure Teri knows all about, because as sisters we love our perfume; yet we are also nagged with domestic responsibilities, like bleaching things and using ajax.

My favourite passage is on page 112 where Teri writes "No" at one point. To me that word sums up the point of this book: "No (to men that try to hold us back from being fabulous and doing it for ourselves)."

Female Masturbation : Every Woman's Orgasm is Unique.

2.0 out of 5 stars

every woman’s orgasms is fairly similar, December 2, 2004

I found some of these orgasms rather blasé. Ridicule me if you like, but I’ve been an active participant in countless female orgasms, and can therefore speak with utmost authority on the subject. Despite my jaded outlook, I recently encountered an orgasm which caused me to stand up and take alarm. It involved a douche composed of pea soup – and forgive me for being frank – but it really produced a remarkable effect. I am despondent that the

filmmakers decided to abstain from a more experimental approach such as occurred in the genesis of this aforementioned orgasm. I hope that any upcoming additions to this series will choose to explore the medium of female masturbation, rather than defer to such a conservative approach.

Happy for No Reason: 7 Steps to Being Happy from the Inside Out by Marci Shimoff

4.0 out of 5 stars

Merci Marci, January 23, 2008

I enjoyed this book. Happiness is a state of mind few of us reach without the aid of external factors. Myself, I was unhappy until I began a rigourous diet of almonds to

ensure my body odour would begin to take on the essence of amaretto. After 2 weeks I was unable to detect a distinct almond note in my odour, and happiness did not come. This situation is replicated so often among us. I have many friends who are unable to find lasting happiness without the aid of Anne of Green Gables and all its charming spin-offs, including Anne of Xelon 2942, an intergalactic series I'm currently developing with help from science fiction expert Jörg With, another fan of this book.

When I read this book it simply lifted my mood and transmogrified my mind from a brooding slum with an indelible ketchup smell, into a place where people wear creaseless white and are fragrant with amaretto.

Thank you, Marci Shimoff and your book.

Succulent Wild Woman by Sark

5.0 out of 5 stars oh yes, January 11, 2005

This is an inspiring book, and a powerful call to arms to follow the way of succulence. Sark's obvious succulence does not conform to the borders of her flesh, and isntead plumes out like a feathery white flame that lashes people like a cat o nine tails made of psychic tongues. Sark is wild and succulent; a piquant endive that has grown limbs and written a book about wild succulence. Read this book aloud to the frothing feral ocean – the words will escape from your mouth like ecstatic minnows that crave the silvery wet womb of the sea.

Succulent.

You: On A Diet: The Owner's Manual for Waist Management by Mehmet C. Oz

4.0 out of 5 stars

Something I'd like to 'chair with you, December 7, 2006

First of all, I tried the exercise "The Invisible Chair" and all I can say about it is that I no longer use "visible chairs." At the home, out in the yard, at the cafe, it doesn't matter

where. At the bus stop I look at the other bus patrons with a smirk. I seem as though I'm about to sit on the bench — and then right next to the bench — I neatly fold myself and do the invisible chair exercise, reading my magazine, self-satisfied.

However, I've come across a problem. The authors do nothing to explain how I might cross my legs and lean back, all casual.

Also, I haven't tried the diet yet.

HISTORY

The Anatomy of the Zulu Army: From Shaka to Cetshway, 1818-1879 (Greenhill Military) by Ian Knight

3.0 out of 5 stars The Anatomy of Shaka Zulu, January 24, 2007

This edition is a fundamental ingredient to a piece of historical fiction I'm stewing. It is entitled "The Ecstasy of

Wrath", and its moments of historical rigour are thanks to this book. One page 108 of "The Ecstasy of Wrath", I write "Shaka Zulu's obsidian thighs quivered as they flanked the cinnamon brown sprig of prostrated womanhood, Ozekwan. Shaka Zulu turned around to make sure his door, or rather the hanging flap of tawny cattle hide, gave him privacy. Ozekwan could now see Shaka Zulu from behind. He felt her eyes on his back and his onyx buttocks clenched and became spasmed, like the shimmering flank of a sleek stallion. He laid his Pulsar Quadrant-Ray aside, relaxing in the security of erotic congress." I based this account on several passages in Ian Knight's zealously researched book, as well as my own imagination as I'm introducing a science fiction element. Ian Knight's is a book I recommend, somewhat, if only to understand the difference between the Zulu asagai and the tentatively named 'Zephyr-class Ionoblaster.'

HOME & KITCHEN

Ableware Anus Stimulator 725120000

5.0 out of 5 stars

Anus Stimulator = Anice Stimulator, November 14, 2005

This product is a timely innovation on nature's original anus stimulator: a long thing piece of smoothly polished ivory. I used to use pieces of ivory to stimulate my anus but found that I was coming up against too much environmental red tape. I'm glad that this product at least offers a rough approximation of my preferred product. Taking a cue from the Greeks and their appreciation of smooth white roundness (as masterfully respresented in ancient Greek busts), the anus stimulator offers a modern product with classical grace – a true rarity in this vulgar functionalist age of uninspiring anus stimulators.

Brush Tender Touch Slicker Wire /Puppies

3.0 out of 5 stars

Tender Touch Slicker for Puppies Small by Lenin, January 4, 2005

The product description notes: "The Tender Touch was made just for you!", yet I find this non-discriminatory and egalitarian advertising method used to sell the Tender Touch Slickers to smack of Bolshevism. This product is not for everyone., as not everyone has the genetic competence to support its use. If your hands are too small to adequately grip the handle I doubt very much this product is for you.

One further qualm: this product did not come with my insignia hewn from ivory and mounted on the handle as

I so politely requested, further proving that this product was not made just for me.

Butter Mate

5.0 out of 5 stars

ButterConfidante, December 12, 2005

Like most people, I confront near insurmountable challenges trying to keep my butter tidy. All I've gotten are hollow promises from products avowing their ability to keep my butter neat; yet no matter what activity involving butter, and no matter what butter tidier I'm using, invariably an indecorous sum of Beurre d'Echire will get on the fluted pilaster (with quills filling the fluting), despite being with my butter some 40 feet away and in another room. I ruined an oval Sêvres china plaque with Isigny-Ste-Mere, which confounds me considering how I was at least 56 feet away at the time. The devastation caused me to prostrate myself for days beneath my Dorokhsh antique rug assuaging my despair with Ravel's Pavane for a Deceased Infanta, and eating lavender seeds.

The ButterMate has given me new confidence, and butter is no longer the scourge of my upholstered furniture, et al.

Carruth Studio Chillin' With the Family Stone Carving Replicas

4.0 out of 5 stars

A Touching Monument, November 15, 2005

I havebeen obligated to oversee funeral preparations for my family plot. Being in a tight spot financially I was unsure of how to mark our eventual grave, and had decided to balance several stones atop one another, and then maybe adhering them with a homemade epoxy. Thankfully I came across this delightful

little tomb. Looking at their smiling faces I am touched, and our family dignity is honoured. 4 stars!

'Flautist Angel,' statuette (small)

2.0 out of 5 stars

why?, December 15, 2005

This ‘flautist angel’ is crude, eschewing classical representation to debase itself in the distortions of folk art. A freak frisson of masochism prompted me to order an item that believes human anatomy is modelled upon slurry running from a faucet. Look at it. It’s not playing the flute, it’s smelling the flute. It just sits there and smells that tubey flute all day with a gormless countenance. I turned it around so I can no longer see its face, but then those wings – I mean polyps – on its back wag at me, threatening to roll around like grubs.

Marshmellow Colorful Stools

5.0 out of 5 stars

Stoolpendous, December 15, 2005

This is a spritely twist on your everyday stool. Adding an imbued-with-chunks-of-colourful-marshmellows look, you're reminded that – "yes this is a stool, but… it's different. I like that."

You will not go back to staid old umber stools (not even ones spruced up with lacquer if you're an early innovator of the dreary unfinished look).

Just a great product.

Medieval War Hammer

5.0 out of 5 stars

Society's Opinions = Warfare, May 4, 2005

People are apt to call you names when you're wearing a revealing leather get-up consisting of no more than a few tastefully placed leather bands. This is just the way society is, that is unless you're carrying one of these. I know how cruel society can be. I often wear nothing more than 3 feet of thin leather and suffer the condemnation not only of society, but even of my closest peers – that is until I invested in this Medieval War Hammer.

Oster 4093-008 Classic Beehive Blender, Chrome

5.0 out of 5 stars classic beehive (or wasp) blender, January 4, 2005

Not only does this sick little mama blend beehives really well, she is also fair game for wasp's nests, and probably other insect nests. I find that blended beehive has an ambrosial pleasantness, and serves as a sort of poor man's botox if ingested (or injected) regularly. Add a bit of milk, and you get a really creamy blend that drinks smoothly. The wasp's nest is a bit more tart, but can be tamed with appropriate spicing. The Christmas season inspired me to experiment upon the latter nest with some eggnog, and its flavouring blended serendipitously well.

Thanks Oster.

Pure Komachi by Kai 6 1/2 Inch Stainless-Steel Vegetable Santoku Knife

5.0 out of 5 stars

Santoku Warrior, January 4, 2005

This knife has yet to meet an opponent who does not ulimately yield its vegetable flesh to the Santoku. The Santoku tangles with comestibles from all across the land, and succeeds with ruthless ability. There has only been one who did not kowtow; yet, even that recalcitrant turnip found its end when it was thrown to the back lawn like

a swine, and fatefully succumbed its corporeality to the elements. As the turnip perished, the Santoku flickered in my parlour. Lettuce gore was carelessly smeared upon its blade, but even that could not threaten the Santoku's radiance.

A worthy knife.

Rowenta DC0003 Hose Pipe

4.0 out of 5 stars hose? pipe?, May 4, 2005

Is it a hose, or is it a pipe? To answer your question it is neither: it is a hose pipe. It's also a very fine hose pipe. This isn't a 5 star hose pipe, but it's damn near to being one.

Swiffer Wet Jet All-In-One Power Mop Starter Kit

3.0 out of 5 stars

Kit for Mopping Aspirants

January 26, 2008

This product is a good to initiate the mopping novice, some green confused youth, but for the real professional reading this review you're going to want to remove most of your flooring in the kitchen and replace it with a mesh net and sturdy bracings. You then will want to set-up a removable tarp underneath the netting to catch everything you may spill in the kitchen that sifts through the mesh, from cod batter mix, silica, phosphorus, everything you

may be cooking with. It's an unusual method, but you'll find your floorspace much cleaner. And the tarp can be wrapped up without spilling it all over your basement. I like my basement clean because I have a vintage white rotary dial telephone collection there, one of North America's foremost collections.

So this Swiffer, while it does remove some dirt, is by far one of the lesser methods.

HUMANITIES

The Complete Cartoons of The New Yorker by Robert Mankoff

4.0 out of 5 stars

The New Yorker — heavy book!, November 28, 2004

This is a heavy book. I tried to read this book while I was lying in bed. I held the book above my face, but after several minutes my arms became enfeebled and weak, and I had to put it down. I was unable to use my arms to full capacity for the new few days, and it was arduous even to raise an arm to put my key in the lock. Once I regained full strength, I attempted to again read this book while prostrate — positioning it above my head — but my left

arm gave out in a spasm and I dropped the book onto my face. I'm fed up and no longer try to read this book in bed.

Eragon (Inheritance, Book 1) by Christopher Paolini

5.0 out of 5 stars

Christaphor Paloilini is a talented writer, November 17, 2006

I just flipped through Eragon, and I can safely say it's by far the best book I've ever read. I've always been into fantasy novels because I like to make believe about a lot about things, and living in a meadow with a cape and playing with amulets is one of them, as is pretending to talk to hairless people who wear green clothes, so this was right up my alley. You better believe this book will change your

life if you're into the same stuff I'm into. This is probably one of the more counter-cultural book I've read.

Of Human Bondage (Bantam Classics) by W. Somerset Maugham

3.0 out of 5 stars

not of human bondage, January 4, 2005

Not quite what I expected. For the similarly misguided I instead recommend 'S&M: Studies in Dominance & Submission' by Thomas S. Weinberg, and Juliette by Marquis De Sade.

Jude the Obscure (Penguin Classics) by Thomas Hardy

5.0 out of 5 stars

Yes!, December 14, 2004

Simply awesome. Had me pumping my fist in the air and yelling, "Yes!" over and over again. I read this in one marthon session of fist-pumping and yelling.

And Ladies of the Club by Helen Hooven Santmyer

4.0 Stars out of 5
Helen 'Hoof' Santmyer, January 27, 2007
"...And Ladies of the Club" is a warm story. It follows a group of women who struggle to comprehend their place in a complicated world, finding solidarity amongst each other in a fellowship for women with club feet, the name of which gives this novel its title. One particular highlight is page 168 where the author describes the relapse of a club foot back to its starting position, calling it "a time-lapsed lilac closing in on itself as the sun sets, creaking." Beautiful.

A Modest Proposal and Other Satirical Works (Dover Thrift Editions) by Jonathan Swift

5.0 out of 5 stars

A Modest Proposal – A *Modern* Proposal is more like it., December 1, 2004

Swfit was perhaps the first major writer to introduce cannibalism into Western political thought, and

incorporate it successfully into practical economics. I'm disturbed that Swfit's visionary solution to Thomas Malthus' omen about the dangers of overpopulation hasn't yet been seriously considered by world policymakers. That's just like politicians though, they do anything to get elected – hence another reason why extending the franchise to the lower rungs of the social hierarchy was a terrible mistake and should be revoked.

Mortal Kombat: A Novel by Martin Delrio

5.0 out of 5 stars

Combattimento Mortale, August 10, 2007

Based upon the popular film Mortal Kombat, 'Mortal Kombat: A Novel' is beginning to be recognised as a classic.

Generally the book is very faithful to the film, and what it lacks in the movie's luscious visual textures it makes up for with Martin Delrio's lyricism. In one episode of the book, Sub Zero is looking at Scorpion whose leg he has just frozen "in a legwarmer of diamond butterflies", while Scorpion "evacuates from the pigpen dungeon of

his dirty guts a powerful authoritarian bellow." Another scene Johnny Cage uppercuts Reptile and the action momentarily suspends in this delicate lull; a wind "enchanted with a fine herbed pungency from whisking through a sage patch" passes by Johnny Cage, and Reptile is "reeking and barfing green poisonous syrup." Such potency.

This book is timeless… immortal kombat.

Pale Fire by Vladimir Nabokov

3.0 out of 5 stars

Beyond the Pale Fire, December 2, 2004

Fire – a timeless subject. Perhaps rivalling the wheel in terms of its importance in human development, fire has been an important companion in our teleological quest towards perfection. This book didn't really directly tackle the subject of fire as poignantly as would suit my tastes. If you're interested in furthering your knowledge of fire I recommend the movie "Quest for Fire", the song "Fire" by Arthur Brown, and "Backdraft."

Three Uses of the Knife: On the Nature and Purpose of Drama by David Mamet

3.0 out of 5 Stars,

David Dramamet, February 18, 2008

Through studying David Mamet's theories, I came to realise that a character can be understood not only through what they do, but also through what they say.

My style has started to incorporate Mamet's technique of having characters talk, often to each other, as well as to express themselves through physical acts like gestures and walking. The education in this book has convinced me to abandon my earlier style, where characters have wordless internal monologues while not moving for a play's 2 or 3 hour duration.

3 stars.

Wondrous Strange: The Life and Art of Glenn Gould by Kevin Bazzana

3.0 out of 5 stars

Fine read, has some holes, November 27, 2004

Bananza failed to include my favourite story about Glenn Gould, and of the time he put on a cravat only to have it severed by Leonard Bernstein's sword during the latter's antics one evening at Carnegie Hall. I can only speculate that Kevin Bananza withheld this anecdote because of

how cravats have fallen into desuetude these last few years.

The World of Music According to Starker by Janos Starker

5.0 out of 5 stars Unfurling the World of Music According to Starker, January 31, 2007

Written without the technical competence his fingers are usually spirited with, this is still an intriguing book. Janos Starker barely disguises that he composed this book while bathing. The narrative of his life is interrupted several times with present tense statements concerning his hygiene at the time of writing. "I am flecked with pheasant grease as I compose these words" he writes. "But back to my time in Budapest, or I shall return to it soon. Presently I am bathing, removing these irascible grease spots. I

remove the grease with a coarse loofah, then I write a sentence. This is the slow fugue of Janos Starker's life. A sinuous musk snakes from my armpits. The odor, she returns my thoughts to the pungency of Lady Hungary." A strange journey through the life of the notable cellist, his mind, and what is on his mind as he bathes.

Years of Minutes by Andrew A. Rooney

5 of 12 people found the following review helpful:
5.0 out of 5 stars Andy Rooney, November 28, 2004

Andy Rooney: from his modest beginnings as a midget in 'Not to Be Trusted', to his eyebrow raising turn as a buck-toothed asian man in 'Breakfast At Tiffany's', Andy Rooney has been winning over America with his plucky drive and indomitable spirit. Now the famed commentator from 60 minutes is back with a collection of delightful old man thoughts. Reading this book was like leafing through the cross-sections of a dried brain, and being held in awe by the rich colours and intricate patterns. 5 stars.

POLITICS & SOCIAL SCIENCE

City of God
by St. Augustine

5.0 out of 5 stars

City of Rad, November 26, 2004

I expected City of God to read like any faithful Baedeker would; charming descriptions of quaint, exotic inhabitants; fanastically woven descriptions of alluring locales; perhaps even a tip on where to take in some fine cuisine. To this end, my expecations were most pleasantly vindicated. If you want to know how to make the most out of your holiday to the City of God, I recommend giving more than a careful perusal to this fine tome.

Grand Old Party: A History of the Republicans by Lewis Gould

3.0 out of 5 stars

Grand *Old* Party, May 15, 2004

If you're into a books about old men then this one is definitely for you. Just looking at the cover you can tell these men are really old. I can see where the "Old Party" part comes from but not the "Grand" part.

How to Talk to a Liberal (If You Must): The World According to Ann Coulter by Ann Coulter

5.0 out of 5 stars

A Treatise on Talk and Language, December 15, 2005

Taking her inspiration from some of the developments in language studies within humanities departments since the

1970s, Anne Coulter unearths the sedimented contigency of many oft prattled 'truisms' with a Derridean alacrity.

On Liberty and Other Essays (Oxford World's Classics) by John Stuart Mill

3.0 out of 5 stars

On "On Liberty...", May 15, 2004

Don't get me wrong. This book is quaint and it certainly has its merits. However, I was disappointed that the character on the cover isn't featured anywhere within. Who is the man with outstretched arms? Is he pleading for alms? Is he offering to pull someone out of a river? In fact, if you look closely he appears to be standing in

a body of water which could support the latter theory. Who is he pulling from the river? Or is this a metaphor… do these essays figuratively pull one out of the river – the river of intellectual darkness? Perhaps not, which brings me back to my original point. Who is this man? Like all great philosophical questions… we may never know.

Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media by Edward S. Herman

2.0 out of 5 stars manufacturing nonsense, November 30, 2004

Chomskey and Herman focus too much on like "macro" reasons for manufacturing consent, like governments and capitalists who want people to do things. But he doesn't focus on "micro" reasons, like check this out: one time my

friend John Loggins (we call him J.Lo for short) and I were hanging out on a thursday night. J.Lo said to me, "Let's go see Spiderman 2" and I said "Nah, I want to go to Subway instead and then I want to go to bed." So he was like "No, go to Spiderman 2 with me." So I said, "I don't want to J.Lo, I'm tired and I have to get up early in the morning." Then HE says "If you don't see Spiderman 2 with me I'm not going to hang out with you anymore." Where to turn, right? So I was like "fine, we'll go see Spiderman 2." So I'm watching Spiderman 2, and it was actually pretty good. When I came out J.Lo was like "aren't you glad you went?" and I was like "Yeah I am pretty glad i went. That wasn't a bad movie" – even though I didn't even want to go see it in the first place! Ok, so how would Chomsky explain why J.Lo manufactured consent to make me go and see Spiderman 2? I saw Chomsky speak earlier this year in Vancouver, and I yelled out in the crowd for him to answer this question but he just dodged it. Dodge this book!

The Politically Incorrect Guide to Global Warming (and Environmentalism)

by Christopher C. Horner

4.0 out of 5 stars

Christopher C. Horner, brilliant, February 14, 2007

Thank you Christopher C. Horner. Communist

sympathisers are generally scientists. They ruin good research by forcing results to prove dialectical materialism is at play, even at the most basic molecular level. I quote a passage from the report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change:

"We scientists believe Karl Marx and Lenin or Stalin expressed it best: Science must always be victorious for the proletariat. We will never engage ourselves in bourgeois pseudoscience. We support theories that climate change is real. Science must always dance to the melody of Marxist doctrine and destroy capitalism with this dancing."

This is Lysenkoism. Though I took liberties with that quote and most of the words, the pith remains the same. Christopher Horner would agree, yet my friend Sree Albatap, noted expert on bowel anatomy, he would not. I also know real Science stopped progressing sometime in 1962. The study of Economics is a purer method of understanding man's relation to the world, in my estimations.

I've thoroughly enjoyed Horner's excellent refutation of science. I will definitely read this again.

Trump: The Art of the Deal 1st (first) edition Text Only by Donald J. Trump

2.0 out of 5 Stars

The Fart of the Deal, April 29th, 2004

Last week during a consultation with my mystic and life coach, Derek Andrews, we conducted a divination by method of margaritomancy. Derek held the pearl to a candle and stared into its nacreous abyss. Horror crept over his face, and he pulled back as though removing his head from a cold, wet bath of liquid mother-of-pearl. He

told me that Donald J. Trump would be elected in 2016 as the outcome of some deep, libidinal drive to destruction in the American psyche.

To confirm we did a reading by favomancy, throwing a handful of dried kidney beans on the ground: they scattered on the soil floor of his hut, assembling in the exact likeness of Donald Trump.

Chilled, we then tried one last reading using the method of rumpology, where Derek examined the crevices, dimples, warts, moles and folds of my buttocks. After a careful examination, Derek asked "Will Trump become president?", and before he could finish the examination a gust of foul, deathly wind was released: a *terrifying* omen.

Of course, this is all to be taken with a grain of salt as there is little likelihood of these events occurring. Nevertheless, this book is interesting insight into a man of destiny.

What's the Matter with Kansas? How Conservatives Won the Heart of America by Thomas Frank

5.0 out of 5 stars

puts a new twist on things, December 12, 2004

Thought-provoking. I did not know that the "heart of

America" is an actual item the Conservatives won in a game of squash in 1972; I assumed it was a metaphor. Although it has long since mummified, 'the heart of America' still holds its currency remarkably well, and is sought by almost every politician in America. As this book explains, its stiffness gives it great bounce and will return with a spring should it be bandied against a hardwood floor, or projected against a concrete wall.

MUSIC

Bing with a Beat by Bing Crosby

2.0 out of 5 stars Bing without a Beet, December 5, 2005

This album is OK but I can't appreciate it knowing what it could have been. Originally Bing Crosby expressed an interest in singing with a beet in his mouth, extracting it and then replacing it to manipulate the sound of his voice as a trumpeter does with a mute. His producers did not approve – feeling beets too clearly associated with rural Steinbeck types – and forced Bing instead to opt for a classier instrument more associated with European opulence: a full drum kit with silver rims and all (and not the taut animal hide stretched over a barrel that Bing meekly suggested as a compromise).

This is why I can't give this album 5 stars because all I can hear is what this album could have been.

Carole Bayer Sager by Carole Bayer Sager

5.0 out of 5 stars

Carole 'Buy Her cds' Sager, January 28, 2008

I first heard the Carole Bayer Sager when she was played to me by my endocrinologist, Oliver Shale Condor.

His last words to me concerned "the primordial dwarves in The Pegasus Room." Sadly, I never got to look at them through the two-way mirror.

Carole Bayer Sager puts it best:

"We almost sailed away one pearly dawn

But in the light of early morning

Ooo the wind blew in Whisperin

Some folks are not meant to win"

Sadly, you were not meant to win at not dying, Oliver.

Carole Bayer Sager. 5 stars.

The Cream of Clapton by Eric Clapton

5.0 out of 5 stars Clapton Cream, December 5, 2004

This is a very erotic and sensual album. I don't think I own an album more sexual than this. The only other album I can think of that even approaches this one in terms of raw sexuality is October Road by James Taylor. Amazon should really offer a twofer deal with this album and Solitary Sex: A Cultural History of Masturbation by Thomas W. Laqueur.

Legacy: The Absolute Best by The Doors

4.0 out of 5 stars

Generally Regarded to be the Best of the Doors, November 27, 2004

I'm hesitant to say this album is the "absolute best." In our post-modern society, admitting that there are absolute values is problematic because there is no real litmus test to designate what you're saying as an "absolute", and is likely to have you laughed out of most academic circles. In the olden days someone could claim that God had bestowed them with a revelation of an absolute truth concerning some article of faith, and that was proof enough; but speaking as we do in our morally relative society, the designation of absolutes will ultimately lead us into conflict with an opposing dogma, especially considering

how the compilers failed to include “Indian Summer.” This album is “Generally Regarded as the Best”, but for it to be “the Absolute Best” is really teetering too close to extremism for my tastes. In this age of conflict, it’s troubling to see the hitherto secular world of psychedelic rock music falling sway to this admittedly seductive tendency.

Lost in Mediation I: Gregorian Chants by Capella Gregoriana

3.0 out of 5 stars Getting Lost While Meditating, May 18, 2006

I'm not an expert on meditation techniques, but I do know that once while listening to this album I woke up 50 miles from my house with nothing to clothe me but a piece of chiffon, an interesting recipe for perogies tucked under my armpit, and absolutely no recollection of what had taken place. I was lead to believe by this product that being "lost"

in meditation would entail no more than some deep thinking, and not many hours of unaccounted for experience and celtic tribal tattoos wrapped around my thighs.

Siempre
by Il Divo

5.0 out of 5 stars Sempre Eccellente, January 23, 2007

I've always dreamt of the day I would hear "Without You" translated into Spanish.

Nothing is more romantic than the Spanish language, or the other romance languages. In fact, a cursory glance at history reveals the European-Mediterraneans invented romance. They swept into Northern Europe chewing cloves and wearing nothing more than form-fitting silk pants and loose blouses. Regardless of the weather, in their silks they introduced tenderness and compassionate mannerisms into the Teutonic milieu of Northern Europe, a social climate literally indistinguishable in its sexual violence from the Klingon empire.

This requires some explication of Klingon history. It wasn't until the 14th century that the Klingon homeworld

Qo'noS was inundated with the technologically advanced Hur'q. The invading Hur'q stole the sacred sword of Kahless the Unforgettable, a messianic Klingon responsible for many norms of the Klingon warrior creed, including many of the brutal love rituals, such as glaring at one's husband/wife with hostility, and also the ritual of at some point drawing blood with a large curved knife with a demon carved on the handle (the Klingon angel). The Klingons eventually repulsed from Qo'noS the Hur'q and reverse-engineered their transportation technology. This enabled a crude, boorish race to move into space, diluting what had previously been a gentleman's game, a mannered game of chess in a Genoese court.

Il Divo: they are in this seaborne Romance model. They are not a pack of pelt wearing Gauls with at least 57% of their bodies covered in battle-hardened scar tissue.

Add this cd to your 'classics' section.

Staring Down The Sun by Tal Bachman

4.0 out of 5 stars Tal Bachman yes!, October 20, 2005

This album is incredible. I simply cannot do it justice as a reviewer because I lack the intelligence and critical skills necessary to give a beautiful take on why this album is fantastic.

Trying to write a review of this album would be like getting a crystal meth influenced Prime Minister Paul Martin to write a poem in Gaelic about what Judith Butler's back looks like, or having 10 clones of Bill Cosby perform neurosurgery on a Care Bear even though they're just cartoons and/or plush representations of cartoons: these people are just not in a position to effectively accomplish their respective tasks.

It's the same thing with me and this album.

Also, I just read the Koran and it really helped me understand more fully the works of Michael Crichton which in turn helped me develop a greater appreciation of Tal Bachman's artistic work.

In addition to this I also recommend *Congo* by Michael Crichton, and *The Koran*.

Still the Same...Great Rock Classics Of Our Time by Rod Stewart

5.0 out of 5 stars Still The Same... Still, October 12, 2006

I abhor change. As a conservative I find the concept of change to be repugnant, and if we must have change it should come very very slowly. Rod Stewart is "Still the Same." I like that. I like that he hasn't changed. When things begin to change it's always a kerfuffle. Don't get me wrong though. Some change is good. I like when the seasons change, one into the other. It's a nice slow change, moving at a gentle pace. It's relaxing. I like when things move in slow motion as well. It's beautiful. When I watch Rod Stewart on my videocassette deck, I put him in slow

motion. The folds of his pumpkin orange face move like pond ripples away from his mouth, and slowly break over his closed eyes. And his voice is deeper and vibrates more. Change makes me wistful and yearn for a time when things went a lot slower, and everything was in slow motion, and it took you a full 5 minutes to raise a glass of milk to your lips, and another 5 minutes to finish drinking it in that slow old-fashioned American way, just slow slow milk, almost like pouring congealing wax. It was an excruciating patience, but I miss it. I miss those days, and Rod Stewart's music really brings me back to them.

That's why I give this cd 5 stars, because when I listen to it at half speed it hits that sweet spot. Stay exactly the same Rod Stewart.

The Transformed Man by William Shatner

5.0 out of 5 stars A Man Named Shatner (in italics), March 14, 2002

Shatner is just brimming with a concept on this record, but unfortunately the average listener hasn't the intellect to fathom the depths that Shatner's mind can so obviously penetrate.

Mr.Tambourine man is brilliantly rendered here with sad, mourning horns, 60's sitcom-esque orchestral flourishes, and Mr.Shatner calling out somewhere in the background, yearning for "Mr. Tambourine Man?..... Mr.Tambourine

Man?". Alas, Mr.Tambourine Man cannot hear for he is maniacally bashing away at his tambourine somewhere in the foreground, panned slightly to the right.

"Spleen" is a stark portrait of one man cursing the wrath of church bells and rain. Stuff is wailing through his soul and raising black flags in his bent skull. It's scary stuff. note: Baudelaire wrote a poem called "Spleen." Perhaps Shatner is the reincarn... Nah! ... ??

His Shakespearean renditions are nothing short of passionate. Shatner has a passion – for what? Drop-of-a-hat mood swings and suddenly appearing to be drunk.

The classic on this album though is "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds." Shatner tampers with one of the greatest pop songs ever and puts his spin on it. The result? Picture this: Shatner reminisces about "the girl with kaleidoscope... Eyes" as the word "eyes" echoes back with some space-age reverb effect, while agency chorus girls sing "Lucy in the sky with diamonds" as a toothpaste jingle.

As a friend aptly put it, "when you've lived like Shatner has lived, you can't control it..." or as Shatner once said, "This, to me, is a work of art."

Somewhere apples are growing, waves are crashing and Shatner... Shatner.

NATURE & ECOLOGY

Caterpillars in the Field and Garden: A Field Guide to the Butterfly Caterpillars of North America (Field Guide) by Thomas J. Allen

4.0 out of 5 stars

a field guide i feel good about endorsing, December 12, 2005

As far back as I can remember (about 4 years now), I have had a gripping fascination with caterpillars. I can't claim any real expertise in identifying caterpillars – being merely an armchair larval lepidopterist – but I've spotted a strange caterpillar not mentioned in this volume. It can stretch itself between two branches so that when birds and squirrels try to pluck it from the branch it gives a curious tone, almost sharing an identical timbre with the mouth harp. I've read this manuel backwards and forwards and cannot identify this specimen.

This book also has wonderful pictures.

National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals (Audubon Society Field Guide)

by National Audobon Society

2.0 out of 5 stars

michaellandonsrock , January 26, 2007

I've written to the National Audubon society and several geologists concerning an omission in this book.

I can't remember when Michael Landon and I discovered our mutual love of geology, but it remained a constant in our friendship. Shortly before he began to film for his finest role as Jonathan Smith in "Highway to Heaven", Michael Landon and I embarked upon a geological survey of Northern Canada. Using his celebrity influence, Michael Landon was granted a royal charter from Franz Joseph II, then Prince of Liechtenstein, to finance any mining capital should we discover a new gem to add to the Prince's famous gem-trunk.

We eventually found a quiet piece of land within the traditional lands of the Nis'gl't'k people. After spending seven months documenting and learning their language these gentle woodsfolk spoke of a cave famous in their stories for being the home of N'gaask'ul'k'ot, or "Gelman." Instinctively, Michael Landon went there, to Gelman's cave. He refused to use anything but a 10 inch hunting knife when quarrying. He furiously knifed at the cave wall for 4 or 6 hours without any apparent consistency to where his knife struck. Suddenly the cave stank. What was the smell? I followed Michael Landon's eyes, and he

was using them to look at a gem that lay before his fallow blade. We both knew what we had discovered, but we consulted our Audubon guide. It wasn't listed. In his excitement, Michael Landon first suggested naming it "stinkrock", then "stankrock" and finally "smellrock." I took on a soothing tone to pacify him and delicately suggested we call it the "Landonquicklyite." He put a single finger to his pursed lips, furrowed his brow, squatted, started walking around while squatting, and then eagerly said "let's call it Michael Landon's Rock." Kenneth Waltz later characterised our relationship as having a power imbalance, probably a reason why the gem came to be known among us and in some geological circles as "michaellandonsrock."

The unbearable weight of that memory is comparable to the 10 pounds of michaellandonsrock I carry with me every day. I even put it in the rock tumbler and it looks nice.

So, perhaps my review is biased, but I hope that in the future the Audubon Society will investigate my claim.

Toes, Ears, & Nose! A Lift-the-Flap Book by Marion Dane Bauer

3.0 out of 5 stars

toes, ears, &... sternum?, November 28, 2004

This is comprehensive and exhaustively researched reference guide. After reading this intructive text you will learn the location of your toes, ears, nose, mouth, eyes, etc. My only qualm is that this otherwise learned tome fails to edify its readership on the location of the liver, the

epiglottis and – most importantly – the cerebral cortex. I anxiously anticipate the second edition.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS

Game Face Paintball E-Rex Elite Semi Auto Marker

4.0 out of 5 stars

game face paintball, December 14, 2004

As the product title indicates, this gun is ideal for a game called "game face paintball." I found this game is fun to play with people who have broad faces, and more challenging with people who have narrow faces. As my face is narrow, I am a difficult target; but my friend Tim has a fat moon-shaped face, and is a slow runner. This makes him easy sport, albeit tiresome to continually hunt long after you've pock-marked his face and further augmented its lunar qualities. A combination of faces of varying widths and lengths easily mixes things up; try tossing in

a few weasel-faced people, and you've got yourself an afternoon!

Great product.

Wilderness Living by Gregory J. Davenport

3.0 out of 5 stars

wilderness living and... survival?!, November 27, 2004

Sure, this book claims to teaches you how to do a a lot of things to survive, except one thing: it doesn't teach you how to string up a log into the trees, so that when someone walks by and unwittingly pulls a trigger, the log comes swinging down and crushes them – like what Arnold Schwarzenegger did to Predator. I haven't yet figured out how a single person can do this, unless you're using a complex lever and pulley system. Anyways, you've really got to fortify some kind of defense if you want to survive, and at least encircle your lair with punji pits.

TOOLS & HOME IMPROVEMENT

2-Pc. Gorilla Bar Set

3.0 out of 5 stars

An adequate pry bar., November 27, 2004

As far as pry bars go, this one is average. I recommend the Stanley 55-515 12-1/2" Pry Bar if you're really interested in prying things. This pry bar is light, and I was able to pry into a few houses, but it just doesn't have the feel of the Stanley. I gave it a three because the smaller pry bar in this set is incredibly useful for opening windows. Plus, it's got a cool name. When you and your accomplices are talking about gear, telling them that you've got your "gorrila bar" really has a heft to it, and is liable to impress them. Saying you brought your "Stanley" isn't as fulfilling. The name sounds a lot like you brought an old man along. "I brought Stanley." Anyways, 3 star pry bar set. The Stanley is really where its at, as far as pry bars go.

Shark 10-2206 Rockeater Drywall Saw

5.0 out of 5 stars an imposing drywall saw, November 28, 2004

This is a very noble drywall saw. It takes a firm command of the drywall and tidily administers to it with such dignity – a trait I find boorishly lacking in most other drywall saws. The patrician cast and venerable blade make it a dignified and baronial addition to your workshop. I myself feel a workshop too ignoble a home for this drywall saw, and have instead mounted it above my fireplace where its eminence can be more proudly displayed.

AFTERWORD

Afterword

Thank you.